

**[00038]** Having thus set forth the nature of the invention, what is claimed herein is:

1. A surgical retractor comprising:
  - a rack having a proximal and distal portion;
  - a first arm connected to a first location on the rack having an end spaced from the first location defining a length therebetween;
  - a second arm having a housing for slidably engaging a portion of the rack and an end spaced from the housing defining a length therebetween, said second arm selectively positionable on the rack intermediate the proximal and distal portions, said second arm having a continuously curved segment intermediate the housing and the end; and
  - said housing having an adjustment mechanism for allowing the positioning of the housing relative to the rack at a desired location and the at least temporary fixation of the housing at the desired location.
2. The surgical retractor of claim 1 wherein the continuously curved segment of the second arm spans the length of the second arm.
3. The surgical retractor of claim 2 wherein the continuously curved segment has a constant rate of curvature.
4. The surgical retractor of claim 1 wherein the continuously curved segment is concavely oriented toward the first arm.

5. The surgical retractor of claim 1 wherein the first and second arm are at least substantially coplanar.

6. The surgical retractor of claim 5 wherein the rack is substantially coplanar with the first and second arms.

7. The surgical retractor of claim 1 wherein the first arm further comprises a housing for slidably engaging a portion of the rack and an end spaced from the housing defining a length therebetween, said first arm selectively positionable on the rack intermediate the proximal end and distal end, said first arm having a continuously curved segment intermediate the housing and the end; and

said housing having an adjustment mechanism for allowing the positioning of the housing relative to the rack at a desired location and the at least temporary fixation of the housing at the desired location on the rack.

8. The surgical retractor of claim 7 wherein the continuously curved segment of the first arms is concavely oriented relative to the second arm.

9. The surgical retractor of claim 1 wherein the continuously curved segment extends at least substantially the length of the second arm.

10. The surgical retractor of claim 1 wherein the continuously curved segment extends at least one third of the length of the second arm.
11. The surgical retractor of claim 10 wherein the continuously curved segment extends at least one half of the length of the second arm.
12. The surgical retractor of claim 1 wherein the first arm has a continuously curved segment intermediate the first location and the end, said continuously curved segment extending at least one third of the length of the first arm.
13. The surgical retractor of claim 12 wherein the continuously curved segment of the first arm extends at least one half the length of the first arm.
14. The surgical retractor of claim 13 wherein the continuously curved segment extends at least substantially the length of the first arm.
15. A surgical retractor comprising:
  - a rack having a proximal and distal portion;
  - a first arm connected to a first location on the rack having an end spaced from the first location defining a length therebetween, said first arm having a continuously curved segment intermediate the housing and the end extending at least one third of the length;

a second arm having a housing for slidably engaging a portion of the rack and an end spaced from the housing defining a length therebetween, said second arm selectively positionable on the rack intermediate the proximal and distal portions; and

said housing having an adjustment mechanism for allowing the positioning of the housing relative to the rack at a desired location and the at least temporary fixation of the housing at the desired location.

16. The surgical retractor of claim 15 wherein the continuously curved segment of the first arm extends at least one half the length of the first arm.

17. The surgical retractor of claim 16 wherein the continuously curved segment extends at least substantially the length of the first arm.

18. The surgical retractor of claim 15 wherein the second arm has a continuously curved segment extending at least one third of the length of the second arm.

19. The surgical retractor of claim 18 wherein the continuously curved segment of the second arm extends at least one half the length of the second arm.

20. The surgical retractor of claim 19 wherein the continuously curved segment of the second arm extends substantially the length of the second arm.